

LESSON 8

JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN



BEFORE YOU TEACH

Jesus' Prayers

Throughout the period of His ministry, Jesus prayed whenever He could. He prayed in the wilderness (Lk 5:16), the mountains (Mt 14:23; Lk 6:12), the garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:36) and even upon the cross (Lk 23:46). He prayed when He was sad, when He was thankful (Lk 10:21; Jn 6:11), and when He chose His disciples (Lk 6:12ff). He fasted forty days and nights before facing temptation. He prayed for the people around Him and for His disciples (Jn 17:6-19; Lk 22:31-34). Knowing that God is the only source of power and strength, Jesus prayed to God continually for the power and strength to help people and to finish the ministry.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Jesus set the perfect example in living a life of prayer. He prayed constantly for God's guidance. He prayed in the morning and late in the evening. He prayed in secret. He offered thanksgiving despite His sufferings. Most importantly, through His prayers, Jesus gained the strength needed to be submissive to the will of God.

Your students have always been encouraged to pray regularly. They are not expected to pray as much as Jesus, but they need to be reminded of the importance and purpose of prayer, which is giving thanks and spending time with God. Through their prayers, they can ask for guidance and strength. They can also pray for others. Ask the students what things they pray for. Why do they ask for those things? Do they feel God listening to their prayers?

Also discuss with the students the need to submit to God's will. Sometimes, things don't always work out the way they planned. Remind them that Jesus did not want to suffer the agony of dying on the cross, but He knew that it was the will of God. In His prayer, He asked God to help Him to obey. Encourage your students to also submit to God's will. Then they will be able to experience the deliverance and power from God.

BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 26:30-46; Mark 14:26-41
Luke 22:39-46; John 16:18-11

BIBLE TRUTHS

1. Jesus was a Man of prayer.
2. Jesus was submissive to God's will even in the most perilous times.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the students' understanding of the importance of praying at all times.
2. To encourage students to follow God's will, even when it conflicts with their own.

MEMORY VERSE

"Watch and pray."

(Matthew 26:41a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Thank You, Lord Jesus for Your great love. Lord, You endured much pain while on earth. Not only did You bear the pain of the cross, but also the pain of loneliness. Though the journey was very hard, You continued to follow God's will and not Your own. Lord, we will try our best to obey Your will just as You obeyed the Father's will. Please give us strength and courage when we are weak. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for all Your mercy and grace. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

desert: to abandon, forsake, leave behind

deny: to disown, reject

submit: to obey, surrender

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the sacrament of footwashing. Jesus first set an example for us by washing His disciples' feet, showing that He was a humble servant. By doing this, He demonstrated that He came to the world to serve. We learned that if we do not partake in footwashing, then we have no part with Jesus and we will not be able to be in heaven with Him. Furthermore, we also learned that we should do to others as Jesus did to His disciples. He showed great love to them, and He hoped that they would in turn show great love to others. Today, we should follow in Jesus' footsteps and show love to others whenever we can because it pleases God.

BIBLE STORY

Walking to the Garden

It was the Passover, and it was the night before Jesus was to be crucified. He knew that He was to die soon on the cross for mankind's sins. During the last supper, He taught His disciples many final teachings. Judas Iscariot left in the middle of the meal. He had planned to betray Jesus to the leaders and priests for thirty pieces of silver.

After the meal, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn and left for the garden of Gethsemane. On the way to the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus shared with His disciples that He would soon be captured and crucified.

Then Jesus said to them, "Soon, you will all leave Me."

The disciples could not believe that Jesus would think such a thing! They would never leave Him! The disciples shook their heads and said they would even die with Him if they had to. Of all the followers, Peter was affected the most deeply. He wanted Jesus to know that he really, really loved Him.

"Everyone may leave You, but I will never do that!" Peter could not imagine ever deserting Jesus.

But the Lord said to Peter, "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will have denied Me three times." Peter did not believe Jesus' words.

"No!" Peter cried. "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You."

Jesus Prays in the Garden

Having arrived at the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him to pray. Jesus' heart was extremely sad and heavy. He said to the three disciples, "My heart is so sad that it is almost unbearable. Sit here. Stay awake with Me, while I go to pray." Jesus needed to pray because He needed God's comfort and help.

Jesus walked a bit further by Himself. He then knelt on the ground and began to pray. Jesus knew He would soon

die in an agonizing and shameful way. He would be judged, beaten, mocked, and finally crucified on the cross for the sins of mankind. Though Jesus was sinless, He would carry to the cross the sins of all people in the past, present, and future. He would become the greatest sinner. This task was too difficult and painful to endure.

Jesus prayed, saying, "My Father, My Father, if it is at all possible, let it be that I don't have to go through all this. But if what I ask is not Your will, then let Your will be done."

Jesus prayed very earnestly and loudly for a long time. He prayed so urgently that His sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood. He could not face the cross without God's help.

When Jesus finished praying, He found His three disciples sleeping. They were exhausted and had fallen asleep from sorrow.

Jesus said to Peter, "Couldn't you stay awake with Me one hour? You also need to be watchful and pray."

Jesus then went and prayed a second time. "O My Father, if I must go through all this suffering and pain, then let Your will be done. I will do as You want."

Jesus returned to the disciples and found them asleep again. So Jesus went back to pray a third time, saying the same things.

Jesus prayed to God with a heart filled with pain and sorrow. God heard His prayers and sent an angel to comfort and strengthen Him for the trials He would soon face.

Strengthened by God, Jesus stood up and returned to His sleeping disciples. Jesus woke them saying, "Awake! The time has come. I am going to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Come! Let's go! See, here is the man who betrays Me!"

Coming towards Jesus was His disciple Judas and a

band of soldiers and armed men who came to arrest Jesus. Jesus could have decided not to die on the cross. He could have escaped or called on God to send thousands of angels to protect Him from these wicked men, but He didn't. Jesus did not flee, but allowed Himself to be captured. Through His three long and sorrowful prayers, Jesus was comforted and strengthened by God to face the cross and die for our sins. No matter how difficult it would be, He would fulfill the will of God.

Through the night, the leaders of the Jewish people and the Roman governor judged Jesus. The Roman soldiers mocked and beat Him. Finally, they crucified Jesus the next day.

Through His prayers, Jesus was given strength and power to finish the work the heavenly Father had given Him. Today, our Lord Jesus has resurrected and ascended to heaven.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

True or False and Questions to Think About

1. **Jesus was excited and happy about the trial He was about to face.** False; He was sorrowful.
2. **The three disciples prayed earnestly together with Jesus in the garden.** False; they fell asleep.
3. **Though Jesus prayed to God to take away the pain of the cross, He was still submissive to God's will.** True.
4. **When we are scared or sad, the best thing we can do is to tell God in prayer.** True.
5. **Jesus prayed four times in the garden of Gethsemane.** False; He prayed three times.
6. **Jesus prayed so hard in the garden that His sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood.** True.
7. **How did God comfort Jesus?** He sent an angel to comfort and strengthen Him.
8. **Who did Jesus bring with Him into the garden?** Peter, James, and John.
9. **While Jesus was on earth, why did He pray so often?** To ask God for power and strength to do His work.
10. **What should we do when God does not allow us to do what we want?** We should still follow God's ways.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Watch and pray." (Matthew 26:41a)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; Jesus was sorrowful.
2. False; they fell asleep.
3. True
4. A
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. He needed strength and power to finish the work.
9. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Jesus endured an extraordinarily painful plight on our behalf

In Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, He said, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done" (Lk 22:42). What is this "cup" that Jesus wanted God to take away from Him? [Pause for students to think.] This "cup" refers to the suffering He was to face—He knew what was about to happen to Him. As soon as Jesus finished praying in the garden, He was captured and later crucified. In other words, Jesus was asking God to stop this from happening to Him if it was possible. Nevertheless, Jesus submitted to God's will and died on the cross for our sins. He was going through tremendous pain and struggle in His heart as He prayed, with the imminent suffering hanging heavy in His mind and soul.

Jesus chose to die on the cross because He loves us. No one in this world is sinless except Jesus; He is God Himself. However, Jesus wanted everyone to be saved. He loves us so much that He was willing to come down from above—that wonderful place called heaven—and suffer great torment, carrying the sins of all people from the past, present, and future on the cross. He didn't have to die, but He did so as to open the fountain of salvation for us. Today, we should always remember this extremely difficult and painful mission that Jesus endured for us so that we do not make the Lord's suffering in vain. Let me share a testimony with you from one of our church members.

Before I was baptized into True Jesus Church, I had a vision during a prayer session. While I was praying, a thought crossed my mind, "Why are these people praying so hard?" As I asked myself this question, I saw a cross in a distance. A figure hung on the cross. The whole vision was very dark, and there was light only around the cross.

Tears started to flow down my cheeks. Things I had

only read about before in the Bible were now shown directly to me... Amazing love, how could it be, that the Son of God, the Lord Jesus died for me. He died for all of us.

It was grace indeed that sinful men could become children of God. And prayer was the way that we could communicate directly with Him.

The following week, I attended the Spiritual Convocation at Adam Road Church. At the end of the first service, anyone who wanted to pray for the Holy Spirit and to experience God was invited to pray at the front of the chapel. The sister who brought me to True Jesus Church encouraged me to go to the front. So, I went.

At that time, I was still not baptized. I dared not pray for the Holy Spirit, as I felt unworthy. In my prayer, I merely asked God to tell me if this was His true church. Suddenly, my surroundings became brighter and brighter. Words fail to capture this wonderful light—so very powerful, yet so extremely gentle and comforting that it was not glaring at all. A thought flashed into my mind, "My Father in heaven loves me dearly."

My tears flowed freely again. The Lord Jesus had not answered my question directly. Somehow, I knew He wanted me to find the answer myself, and by showing me His love through the visions I had, He reassured me that I could find Him in True Jesus Church.

"How I Found God in True Jesus Church"
Pik Sin Choo—Telok Kurau, Singapore, Manna 55

2. Obeying the will of God

Jesus decided to submit to God's will even though it meant He would face an agonizing death on the cross.

Today, we need to follow Jesus' courageous example. To submit to God, we must forsake our own will. In the Bible, there were many people who gave up their own will to please God and submit to His will.

[Refer to the instructions on the worksheet and have the students complete it. After all the students have completed the worksheet, review the answers with the students.]

- Moses (Heb 11:24-25): Moses gave up the good life in the palace. He gave up his royal status as the son of Pharaoh's daughter to suffer with the people and lead them out of Egypt.
- Paul (Phil 3:5-7): Paul gave up his status as a Pharisee to preach the gospel as a member of the Christians, a persecuted group at that time.
- Abraham (Gen 12:1): Abraham left his people and the country he knew to go to a land promised by God.

- Peter (Mt 4:18, 22): Peter left his job as a fisherman, and his father and family, to preach the gospel.
- Elisha (1 Kgs 19:19-21): Elisha gave up his oxen and his job as a farmer to become a prophet in Israel.
- Daniel (Dan 1:8): Daniel gave up the king's food and wine to stay holy for God.

These people sacrificed something important to submit to God's will, just like Jesus. We must also have the courage to submit to God's will. Let me share a testimony with you!

Many years ago, Connie and her family moved to China due to Connie's father's job. When they first got there, Connie had a hard time adjusting to the lifestyle in China since she was born in the United States. Even though Connie had always spoken Chinese at home with her parents, she didn't know how to read or write Chinese, so living in China was a big challenge for her.

One thing that Connie couldn't get used to was going to church in China. Firstly, the church building was very old and run-down. During the summer, it was extremely hot inside the church with hundreds of church members sitting together in a sermon without air-conditioning. There was also a lot of background noise since there was no proper sound insulation between the chapel and the classrooms, kitchen, or the main roads. Secondly, Connie didn't enjoy going to R.E. classes because they were taught in Chinese, which Connie wasn't very familiar with, and she couldn't read from the Chinese Bible. On top of these, there were no doors in the bathroom! Connie just couldn't get used to going to church—it was not the same experience as going to church back where she used to live!

For the first few months in China, Connie tried making many excuses not to go to church. She told her mom that she didn't enjoy going to church in China and that she'd rather stay home and read the Bible by herself at home on Saturdays. However, Connie's mom said to her, "I agree with what you say—it is indeed very different going to church here in China. But our experience shouldn't stop us from going to church to observe the Sabbath... It is your heart to worship God on this holy day that counts. Yes, it may take some time for us to adjust to it, but we should not let our initial experience ruin our Sabbaths. We should still go and worship God together with brothers and sisters, praise Him and rest in His peace, shouldn't we? More importantly, we need to obey God and submit to His will. What do you think His will is?" Connie thought for a second and answered her mom, "I understand now. God's will is for us to go to church and worship Him there on the Sabbath. We shouldn't stop going to church because of what seems disagreeable to us."

From that day on, Connie always asked God in her prayers to give her courage to submit to His will—that is, to be more open and willing to be part of a church that she didn't feel comfortable in and to observe the Sabbath with all her heart. As time passed by, Connie and her family began to get more familiar with the church in China and the members there. They went to church every Saturday and made a lot of good friends there. Connie's Chinese improved steadily, and she no longer felt like a stranger. Without them realizing, Connie and her family had become part of this big church family in China, and they enjoyed going to church very much.

3. Pray at all times

Jesus prayed constantly. He prayed when He was sad, when He was thankful, and before making a decision. Jesus prayed for the people around Him. He prayed at different times, through the night or early in the morning before sunrise, and in different places, on the mountain, in the wilderness, in the garden of Gethsemane, and even on the cross. Regardless of time or location, when Jesus prayed to God, He shared with God everything in His heart and mind, like two close friends. Similarly, we can talk to God like He's a close friend, anytime and anywhere.

How often do you pray? Do you pray every day? Do you pray in the morning before school? Do you pray at night before you sleep? Have you ever prayed alone in your room? Do you pray with your family? Have you tried

praying to God at school?

[Ask the students to share a prayer they made to God. The prayer could be them telling God how happy they were, or them telling God their sorrows and need for help. Remind your students that God is always there for them. He looks forward to talking to them daily.]

Testimony

Hallelujah, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I testify about an experience I had during prayer on December 26, 1999 in Toronto Church, Canada. During this prayer I was thinking about my father, who was in Taiwan working hard to support my family here in Canada. The last time I saw him was

over a year ago. I really missed him. Even though my father is very strict, I still wanted him to come back and hug me. I wanted to tell him how much I loved him. Thinking about him being so far away made me want to cry.

A few minutes later, I saw a bright light suddenly shine into my eyes. The light was all around me. I then saw a person dressed in a white garment coming towards me. Following Him were five to six people who were also dressed in white. I then realized that the first person was Jesus and the people following Him were angels!

Jesus walked towards me and placed His loving arms around me. I felt great joy, peace and comfort. I felt totally safe and protected. Jesus hugged me for what seemed a long time. Then Jesus said, "I am your Father. I am your God." Jesus was telling me not to worry. My father in Taiwan would be all right and

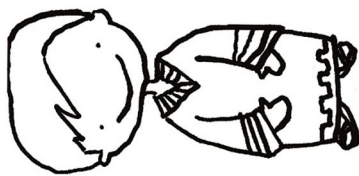
Jesus would look after him and me.

*Excerpt from a testimony
Johnny Cheng—Toronto, Canada, Manna*

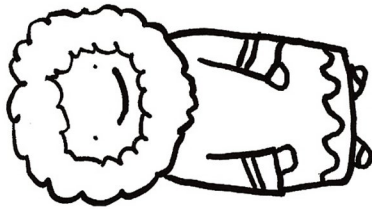
This brother was troubled, so he turned to God in prayer. God answered his prayers and comforted him. We should always bring our troubles and requests to God in sincere and deep prayer. We can be sure that He will answer and comfort us.

Students, today, we have learned the importance and the benefits of prayer. It is very important that we pray often for the Spirit of God to strengthen us as we continue to walk in our spiritual journey. Many temptations surround us each day; if we are not careful to stay in the truth, we can easily give in to temptation. Therefore, let us keep watch and pray at all times. May God continue to keep and guide every one of us in our everyday lives!

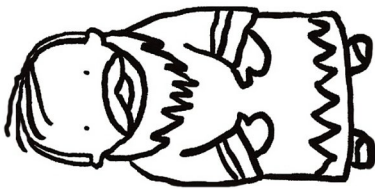
Instructions: Look up the following Bible verses to find out what each Biblical character sacrificed. Then, match the character with what he or she sacrificed.



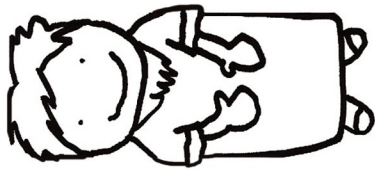
Moses
(Heb 11:24-25)



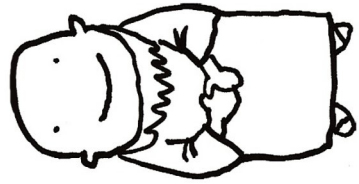
Paul
(Phil 3:5-7)



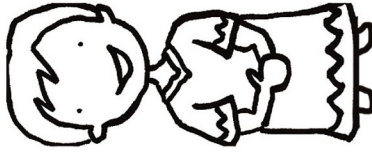
Abraham
(Gen 12:1)



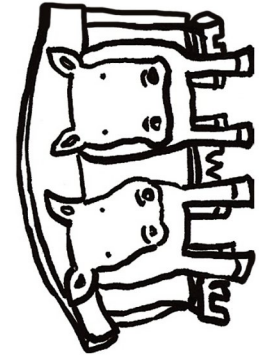
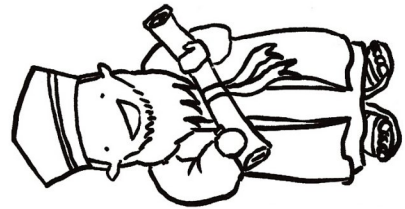
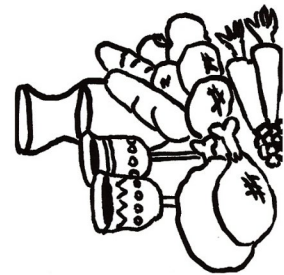
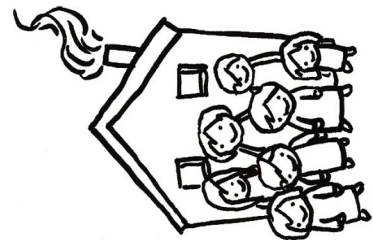
Peter
(Mt 4:18, 22)



Elisha
(1 Kgs 19:19-21)



Daniel
(Dan 1:8)



ACTIVITY

1 Invitation from God

Objective: To emphasize to students that it is important to follow God's will, even when it is against their own.

In our lesson, we learned that Jesus died on the cross for us. He did this in accordance with God's will.

To obey God's will, we must learn to sacrifice our own will. We may have to give up our desires or possessions. Many times, we may not wish to make this sacrifice. To gain the strength needed to make the sacrifice, we can follow Jesus' example and pray. We can pray to God to help us obey and to give us strength to do God's will. When we do what is right in God's sight, God will bless us greatly.

For teachers: Write the following scenarios on index cards and place them in envelopes. [Note: You may put a different scenario in each envelope or put the same scenario in all the envelopes.] Give one envelope to each student. You may also choose to write your own scenarios. If time allows, ask the students if they would like to share their answers.

1. Your friend has invited you to a birthday party on Saturday. The Bible tells us that we should worship God in church on Saturday. What will you do?
2. You have been saving up money to buy a bike. One day at church, your teacher tells you that the church is buying a new building and is asking church members to offer their money to buy the new building. What will you do?
3. Your sibling has been annoying you. Also, she has been getting you in trouble lately. You do not like her too much. Your mom tells you to share your new toy with her. God wants us to love and forgive those who have wronged us. What will you do?
4. Your friends have invited you to play basketball at the park. Mom has given you permission to go. As you are about to leave, your little brother begins to feel unwell and Mom can't take you to the park. You have to stay at home instead. What will you do?

Instructions: Each of you will be handed an envelope. Inside the envelope, you will find a card. Read the card and then think of how you would respond to God if He asked you to do what is written on the card. Write or draw your response on the card. You may tell God whatever is in your heart.

2 Concentration / Optional

Objective: To review the biblical characters the students have studied in the past seven lessons.

Preparation: Make copies of the provided playing cards so that there is one set for each pair of students. Cut the cards out, shuffle them, and keep the sets separate to facilitate distribution later.

Instructions

1. Give each pair of students one set of cards.
2. Have the students place them face down on a table in a four by four square.
3. Have one student start the game by turning over two cards.
 - a. If the name and the event match, then the student keeps those cards.
 - b. If they do not match (i.e., two names, two events, or the name does not match the event), the cards are turned face down and the other student gets a turn.
4. Remind the students to remember the position of the cards when they are turned over.
5. The game ends when all cards have been matched. The student with the most cards wins.

Jesus	Peter	Judas	The Samaritan Woman
Nicodemus	The Donkey	The Three Disciples	James and John
...prayed at the garden of Gethsemane.	...didn't want Jesus to wash his feet.	...betrayed Jesus.	...went to the well to get water.
...went to see Jesus late at night.	...carried Jesus into Jerusalem.	...all fell asleep in the garden of Gethsemane.	...asked Jesus if they could sit at His side in heaven.

E1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 8—Jesus Prays in the Garden

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truths: 1. Jesus was a Man of prayer.
2. Jesus was submissive to God's will even in the most perilous times.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To strengthen the students' understanding of the importance of praying at all times.
2. To encourage students to follow God's will even when it conflicts with their own.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Matthew 26:41a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

True or False

1. Jesus was excited and eager to face the cross. _____
2. The three disciples prayed earnestly together with Jesus in the garden. _____
3. Though Jesus prayed to God to remove the pain of the cross, He was still submissive to God's will. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : How did God comfort the Lord Jesus?
 - a. God sent an angel to comfort and strengthen Him.
 - b. God told Him that He did not need to go through the trial.
 - c. The disciples prayed and comforted the Lord.
5. _____ : When we are scared or sad, what is the best thing that we can do?
 - a. Tell our parents or teacher.
 - b. Tell our friends.
 - c. Pray and ask the Lord Jesus to help us.
6. _____ : How many times did Jesus pray in the garden of Gethsemane?
 - a. Three times
 - b. Two times
 - c. Four times
7. _____ : Knowing that He would soon be crucified on the cross and bear the sins of mankind, Jesus' heart was extremely sorrowful. What did Jesus do?
 - a. He told His closest friends.
 - b. He prayed and told God.
 - c. He tried to run away.

Short Answer

8. Before Jesus was nailed on the cross, why did He pray so deeply?

9. When Jesus was sorrowful and afraid, He prayed to God for comfort and strength. Write down a few things that make you sad or scared, or things that are difficult for you to do. After writing them down, write a short prayer to God asking Him to comfort you and give you strength.

Things that make me sad or scared:

My prayer to God: